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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,568	11/15/2001	Yoshinori Miwa	862.C2438	7349

5514 7590 04/08/2004

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO  
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, HUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/987,568

Applicant(s)

MIWA, YOSHINORI

Examiner

Hung Henry V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-19,21-25,32,33,37 and 38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-19,21-25,32 and 33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Miyaji et al (U.S.Pat. 5,559,584).

With respect to claims 37-38, Miyaji et al discloses an exposure apparatus and corresponding method for transferring a predetermined pattern formed on a reticle onto a substrate, and comprising all basic features of the instant claims including: a stage (RT) being able to install at least one of the plurality of masters (R); a stage housing (1) surrounding the master stage which is filled by a first atmosphere (see col.9, lines 5-32) ; a stocker (RN) for stocking at least one of the plurality of masters under the first atmosphere; and a load-lock chamber allowed to communicate with both the inside space and an outside space of the stage housing via shutter S1 and shutter S2 and being able to exchange an interior atmosphere of the load-lock chamber to an atmosphere being substantially equal to the first atmosphere and an atmosphere of the outside of said stage housing, wherein the load-lock chamber (12) is different from the stage housing (as illustrated in figure 5) and wherein the first atmosphere is an inert gas or a vacuum atmosphere (see col.9, lines 5-32).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1, 3-19, 21-25, 32-33 are allowed.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art teaches an exposure apparatus having a first housing for surrounding a master stage, a second housing for stocking at least one of the plurality of masters and a third housing being allowed to communicate with the first housing. But the prior art neither alone or in combination, neither discloses nor makes obvious the combination of an exposure apparatus and corresponding method, among with the other features, the second housing is allowed to communicate with the third housing via the first housing, as recited in the instant claims. Applicant's arguments (for example, page 17, lines 2-18) are deemed persuasive and incorporated herein by reference.

***Response to Amendment***

5. Applicant's amendment filed March 11, 2004 have been entered. Independent claims 1, 18, 21, 24 and 25 are amended. New claims 37-38 are added. Applicant's amendments and arguments have been carefully reviewed. In light of applicant's remarks and amendment, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is withdrawn.

Turning to prior art rejection, amended claims 1, 3-19, 21-25, and 32-33 are allowed. However, this application is not under condition for allowance since the limitations of newly added claims 37-38 are clearly met by Miyaji et al (U.S.Pat. 5,559,584) as set forth above.

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6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Henry V Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2124. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (First Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 571-272-2112. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

hvn  
3/27/04



**HENRY HUNG NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**